

Serial. No. 10/734,744
Response dated March 29, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) An aggregate treated with antifreeze comprising as components at least two of calcium nitrate, sodium nitrate, or magnesium nitrate ~~The aggregate of claim 6,~~ wherein the total concentration of said salt components in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 45 wt. %.

8. (Currently amended) The aggregate of ~~claim 20~~ claim 7, wherein said antifreeze further comprising comprises at least one other antifreeze agent different from said ~~salt components~~.

9. (Original) The aggregate of claim 8, wherein said at least one other antifreeze agent is at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate.

10. (Currently amended) The aggregate of ~~claim 20~~ claim 7, wherein said antifreeze comprises calcium nitrate.

11. (Original) The aggregate of claim 10, wherein the concentration of calcium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 55 wt. %.

12. (Previously presented) An aggregate treated with antifreeze comprising sodium nitrate.

13. (Original) The aggregate of claim 12, wherein the concentration of sodium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 45 wt. %.

14. (Cancelled).

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15. (Currently amended) An aggregate treated with antifreeze comprising ~~comprises~~ magnesium nitrate ~~The aggregate of claim 14~~, wherein the concentration of magnesium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 20 to 40 wt. %.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The aggregate of claim 20~~ claim 15, further comprising at least one corrosion inhibitor.

17. (Original) The aggregate of claim 16, wherein said at least one corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one of sodium nitrite or calcium nitrite.

18. (Original) The aggregate of claim 17, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor is greater than zero and not greater than 5 wt. %.

19. (Original) The aggregate of claim 18, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 wt. %.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A method of removing ice from coal comprising:
(i) finding a coal aggregate having at least a partial coating of ice or snow;
and
(ii) contacting said at least partial coating with a composition comprising at least one of ~~calcium nitrate, sodium nitrate, or magnesium nitrate~~.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of preventing ice formation on a coal aggregate surface comprising contacting said surface with antifreeze, wherein said antifreeze comprises at least one of ~~calcium nitrate, sodium nitrate, or magnesium nitrate~~.

24-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) A method of preventing freezing of coal aggregates comprising contacting said coal aggregates with an antifreeze comprising at least one of ~~calcium nitrate, sodium nitrate, or magnesium nitrate~~.

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27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the contact of said coal aggregates with said antifreeze is performed prior to transport of said aggregates in railcars, trucks, or barges.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the contact of said coal aggregates with said antifreeze is performed at least in part during transport of said aggregates in railcars, trucks, or barges.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the contact of said coal aggregates with said antifreeze is performed at least in part during storage of said aggregates.

30. (Currently amended) A method of preventing freezing of coal comprising applying antifreeze comprising magnesium nitrate to the surface of said coal, wherein the concentration of magnesium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 20 to 40 wt. %.

31. (New) The aggregate of claim 12, wherein said antifreeze further comprises at least one other antifreeze agent.

32. (New) The aggregate of claim 31, wherein said at least one other antifreeze agent is at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate.

33. (New) The aggregate of claim 15, wherein said antifreeze further comprises at least one other antifreeze agent.

34. (New) The aggregate of claim 33, wherein said at least one other antifreeze agent is at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate.

35. (New) A method of preventing freezing of coal aggregates comprising contacting said coal aggregates with an antifreeze comprising a salt comprising at least two of calcium nitrate, sodium nitrate, or magnesium nitrate, wherein the total concentration of said salt in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 45 wt. %.

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36. (New) The aggregate of claim 7, wherein said antifreeze is an aqueous solution of said components.